History of the Committee on Resources

A JURISDICTIONAL SKETCH

Committee on Resources
(formerly the Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.



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1. A JURISDICTIONAL SKETCH

Committee on Resources

(formerly the Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs)

During the early Congresses after the adoption of the Federal Constitution, a Comprehensive standing committee system did not exist in the House of Representatives. Legislative workload was relatively light, the House was a much smaller legislative body than it is today, and congressional rules and structures were at a rudimentary stage of development.

Generally, any Member was free to seek recognition from the Speaker and urge the House to consider acting on a particular subject. If the House found the Member's argument persuasive, it would set a date for later debate on the subject in the Committee of the Whole. There, interested Members would discuss the merits of the proposal and if ultimately sentiment in Committee of the Whole favored further action on the issue, the House would order the Speaker to name a select committee to draft a bill according to the preferences of the House.

The select committee's authority was limited to reporting the ordered bill. The House, after debating (and possibly amending) the select committee's bill, would move to final passage. Then, the select committee would be discharged.

This informal manner of proceeding was possible only so long as the House legislative workload remained light. Workload among the numerous committees was spread unevenly among House members. Within two decades, the House began to designate certain standing committees-panels which would be permanent legislative bodies continuing from Congress to Congress to which proposed bills on specified subjects would automatically be referred.

When the second session of the Eighth Congress convened in early 1805, a proposal to establish a Committee on Public Lands was brought forth in the House. In 1803, the purchase of the Louisiana Territory had been completed, and the land area of the United States had doubled overnight; management of this vast new domain would entail significant new responsibilities for the Federal Government and for the Congress in establishing policy over it. The January 1805 proposal was, however, laid aside as the Eighth Congress was soon to adjourn; most House Members agreed to let the Ninth Congress decide the need for a new panel.

On December 17, 1805, just after the Ninth Congress convened, Rep. William Faintly of Pennsylvania proposed to add to the existing standing committees of the House "a committee respecting the lands of the United States." A majority of the House agreed that the business of the House would be facilitated

by the establishment of a standing committee whose decisions on public lands matters would be uniform, and who would from continuing work in the area become more expert on public lands policy than would a select committee having temporary membership, and a short-term mandate. (1)

Throughout the 19th Century, the House added additional standing committees as new, continuing policy concerns developed. On April 16, 1816, Rep. Thomas Robertson proposed and the House agreed to the establishment of a standing Committee on Private Land Claims. ⁽²⁾ On December 17, 1821, the House established a standing Committee on Indian Affairs on the motion of Rep. Samuel Moore of Pennsylvania who became the new Committee's first chairman. ⁽³⁾ On December 13, 1825, the House established a standing Committee on Territories. ⁽⁴⁾ After the Civil War, as part of a major reorganization of the House committee system, a new standing Committee on Mines and Mining was established. ⁽⁵⁾ The movement of settlers to the southwest focused public attention on water resources. The House, on December 18, 1883 voted to establish a standing Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands; previously, the panel had been a select committee lacking legislative jurisdiction. ⁽⁶⁾ The acquisition of new overseas territories through the treaty ending the Spanish-American War led to the creation of the standing Committee on Insular Affairs. ⁽⁷⁾ Later, in 1924, the authority of the Arid Lands Committee was expanded and its name changed to the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation. ⁽⁸⁾

At various times, the House altered the powers of its various standing committees. By the 1880's, the Committee on Public Lands was authorized to report to the House at any time (and to thereby receive immediate consideration of such bills) on matters relating to the forfeiture of land 50 grants to railroads and other corporations, to prevent speculation in public lands, and to assure access to public lands only to bona fide settlers. The Committee on Territories was, at the same time, authorized to report to the House at any time on the admission of new States to the Union. This right was retained under House Rules by these committees, and their successor Committees on Public Lands and, later, on Interior and Insular Affairs, until the House Rules were changed at the beginning of the 94th Congress. (9)

For a time after 1885, the Committee on Indian Affairs was granted authority to report appropriations for the support of Government programs relating to Indians. In 1920, as part of a wider legislative and executive branch reorganization relating to Federal fiscal management, appropriations jurisdiction was once again consolidated in the Appropriations Committee. (10)

2. LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1946

Although each of these committees was established at a time when policy interest in their respective subject areas was substantial, the distribution of work among the standing committees understandably shifted over time. With the admission of new States to the Union, the work of the Committee on

Territories waned. As concern over balancing economic development and scenic preservation demands rose, the role of the Public Lands Committee was enhanced.

During World War II, many in Congress sought to reorganize the House and Senate to enable the Congress to exercise its constitutional responsibilities more effectively. This concern manifested itself with the formation in late 1944 of the Joint Committee on the Organization of the Congress. This Committee, chaired by Senator Robert M. La Follette, Jr. of Wisconsin along with Vice Chairman Rep. A.S. (Mike) Monroney of Wyoming, proposed a massive restructuring of the committee systems in the House and Senate. From this proposal (the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, Public Law 601, 79th Congress, 60 Stat. 812), came the establishment of a vastly different Committee on Public Lands.

The new Committee on Public Lands absorbed the legislative and oversight responsibilities of the seven committees named above. In addition, the new Public Lands Committee acquired jurisdiction for military parks and battlefields, as well as for national cemeteries; previously, these subjects had fallen within the purview of the Committee on Military Affairs which had become part of the new Committee on Armed Services under the Reorganization Act. Lost from one of its predecessor committees (the Committee on Mines and Mining) was the subject of welfare of mine workers which was transferred to the Committee on Education and Labor. For the first time, the Rules of the House attempted a clearer definition of each new committee's legislative jurisdiction. The responsibilities of the newly created committee were itemized in House Rule XI, as follows:

- "(a) Forest reserves and national parks created from the public domain.
- (b) Forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including alien ownership of mineral lands.
- (c) Geological Survey.
- (d) Interstate compacts relating to apportionment of waters for irrigation purposes.
- (e) Irrigation and reclamation, including water supply for reclamation projects, and easements of public lands for irrigation projects, and acquisition of private lands when necessary to complete irrigation projects.
- (f) Measures relating to the care, education, and management of Indians, including the care and allotment of Indian lands and general and special measures relating to claims which are paid out of Indian funds.
- (g) Measures relating generally to Hawaii, Alaska, and the insular possessions of the United States, except those affecting the revenues and appropriations.
- (h) Military parks and battlefields, and national cemeteries.
- (i) Mineral land laws and claims and entries thereunder.
- (j) Mineral resources of the public lands.
- (k) Mining interest generally.
- (1) Mining schools and experimental stations.
- (m) Petroleum conservation on the public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States.
- (n) Preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain.
- (o) Public lands generally, including entry, easements, and grazing thereon.
- (p) Relations of the United States with the Indians and the Indian tribes."

3. REDESIGNATED AS COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

Early in the 82nd Congress, the House voted to change the name of the Public Lands Committee to that of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. It was the view of several members that the name Public Lands, while one of historic significance, no longer reflected the broader legislative responsibilities of the Committee. The House was also interested in having an identical name with that of the comparable committee in the Senate. The resolution (H.Res. 100, 82nd Congress, 1st Session) providing for the name change was unanimously endorsed both by the Public Lands and Rules Committees, and passed the House by voice vote on February 2, 1951.

4. MILITARY CEMETERY JURISDICTION

A minor alteration of jurisdiction transferred authority for certain military cemeteries from the Interior Committee to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. In October 1967, the House agreed to H.Res. 241 of the 90th Congress, granting to the Veterans' Affairs Committee jurisdiction over "cemeteries of the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or may be buried, whether in the United States or abroad, except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior."

As Rep. James H. Quillen (R., Tenn.), a member of the Rules Committee, noted, certain historic battlefield cemeteries (both in the United States and abroad) were closed to future burials while a significant number of military cemeteries remained able to accommodate future burials. Under H.Res. 241, the Veterans' Committee would acquire jurisdiction over cemeteries open to future burials of veterans while those which were closed were to remain within the jurisdiction of the Interior Committee. Representatives of both committees had been active in negotiations surrounding the jurisdiction change and, after the resolution was agreed to by the House, Rep. Wayne Aspinall of Colorado, chairman of the Interior Committee, obtained unanimous consent to refer from the Interior Committee 66 bills and two resolutions concerning the burial of veterans in military cemeteries to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (12)

For most of the next two decades, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs was predominately concerned with legislation preserving, enlarging, and maintaining public lands and national parks, the development of water resources, and with territorial and Indian affairs legislation. The membership of the Committee reflected this orientation: until the 1970's, most of the committee members came from the western United States or from American territorial possessions represented in Congress by non-voting Delegates. (13)

National energy crises of the 1970's coupled with renewed interest in the reorganization of congressional committees provided the Interior Committee with broadened responsibilities in energy and environmental policy.

5. COMMITTEE REFORM AMENDMENTS OF 1974

In the 93rd Congress, the House established a Select Committee on Committees, chaired by Rep. Richard Bolling (D., Mo.). The Bolling Committee studied the existing House committee structure and recommended in early 1974 a sweeping reorganization of the House committee system. Under the Bolling proposal, the Interior Committee would have acquired vast new jurisdiction over energy and environmental policy. Under its new name, the Committee on Energy and the Environment would have had within its domain responsibility for national environmental policy; conventional and nuclear energy production, regulation, and conservation; public lands (except for forests, farming, and grazing) and land use planning; minerals and mining, mining schools; water resources (including power resources, ocean dumping, coastal zone management, and deepwater ports); and air, water, and noise pollution.

This proposal was among the most controversial suggested by the Bolling Committee. Under it, the House Commerce Committee and the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee were slated to lose important sources of legislative jurisdiction to the new Energy and Environment Committee. The merger of energy and environment jurisdiction into one panel raised fears among environmental interest groups that energy production interests would dominate the new panel and would tend to minimize the influence of environmental advocated within the Congress. The Bolling Committee understood these concerns, but anticipated better policy coordination by linking the issues.

"The select committee believes it has created a properly balanced committee by combining energy and the environment. Energy resources on the public lands are vast and comprise hundreds of years of supply of coal, billions of barrels of oil in shale, untapped resources of oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf in general and the Atlantic coast in particular. The use of these resources can adversely affect the environment and also require, for coal and oil shale development, very large quantities of scarce water resources. These resource questions and the major questions of environmental policy would be placed in one committee where they can be heard and resolved." (14)

As concerns with this and other aspects of the Select Committee's proposal mounted, the House Democratic Caucus directed one of its party committees, the Committee on Organization, Study, and Review chaired by Rep. Julia Butler Hansen of Oregon, to review the Bolling proposal. The Hansen Committee in turn drafted a substantially less altered alternative to the Bolling reorganization plan.

In October 1974, the House considered the original Bolling proposal, along with the Hansen plan, and a third alternative offered by Rep. David Martin (R., Neb.), the vice chairman of the Bolling Committee. On October 8, 1974, the House adopted the Hansen plan with some minor modifications.

Under the Hansen plan as adopted, the Interior Committee's name remained the unchanged, and many areas of energy and environmental jurisdiction planned for transfer to the Interior Committee remained unchanged, although there were significant alterations in the Interior Committee's responsibility. (15)

Under these revised jurisdiction rules which went into effect at the beginning of the 94th Congress, the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee lost its shared jurisdiction over energy and environmental research and development to the Committee on Science and Technology, and lost legislative jurisdiction over Indian education programs to the Committee on Education and Labor. Its jurisdiction over population and demography was transferred to the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Legislatively, the Committee gained jurisdiction over parks in the District of Columbia from the Public Works and Transportation Committee.

The committee reforms established a new committee responsibility called "special oversight jurisdiction". It had previously been understood that committees were responsible for overseeing the operations of programs and laws within their legislative jurisdictions. However, all three reorganization plans called for granting several House committees so-called "special oversight" powers. These committees were authorized to oversee programs over which they did not have exclusive or even predominant jurisdiction.

As a result of these rules changes, the Interior Committee acquired special oversight authority over all programs affecting Indians and non-military energy and research and development, including disposal of nuclear waste. In both areas, several other committees shared legislative authority over these programs, but the Interior Committee could review such subjects without regard to any limits on its legislative authority. The House thereby hoped to assure systematic and comprehensive review of controversial policy areas without regard for any fragmentation of committee legislative authority in these subjects. (16)

The committee reforms additionally permitted the referral of legislation to more than one committee. Under the old House practice, bills were referred to the committee with legislative jurisdiction over the predominant subject of the bill. Not infrequently, portions of a bill might come within the formal jurisdiction of another committee which would normally be denied the opportunity to review even that smaller section of the bill in question.

Under the new rule, the Speaker was given authority to refer bills simultaneously to two or more committees for concurrent consideration or to divide a bill into its component parts in order to refer the pieces to the appropriate committees. Under either the joint or split referral described, all committees considering a bill or parts thereof were required to report back to the House before chamber consideration could be scheduled. Alternatively, the Speaker could refer a bill first to one committee, and then when that bill was reported, refer the measure (along with any amendments endorsed by the first panel) to additional committees to consider provisions falling within their legislative jurisdictions. Secondary committees under such a referral normally have a time limit imposed on them by the

Speaker. Finally, the Speaker was authorized to propose to the House the creation of an ad hoc committee to consider a particularly complex bill. (17)

Twice since 1975 the Speaker has proposed such ad hoc committees --- the Ad Hoc Committee on the Outer Continental Shelf (1975) and the Ad Hoc Committee on Energy (1977) --- and in both instances members of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees have been chosen to represent their committee's policy interests on these important panels. From the work of these Committees came landmark legislation regulating the development of natural resources on outer continental shelf lands and establishing a national energy policy, both subjects which will be discussed later in this report.

6. ABOLITION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

The Interior Committee received a major expansion in jurisdiction in 1977. As result of action taken by the Senate in reorganizing its committees, no Senators were assigned to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy (JCAE) and the newly renamed Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was directed to consider the formal abolition of the atomic energy panel. The House, anticipating favorable Senate action on these reorganization proposals, moved to change the jurisdictions of its committees regarding atomic energy policy, to transfer legislative and oversight jurisdiction from JCAE and to reassign it to various House standing committees.

The House Democratic Caucus Committee on Organization, Study, and Review, still chaired by Rep. Hansen with the assistance of Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D., N.Y.), a member of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, took a lead in suggest the relevant jurisdiction changes. When the House Democratic Caucus endorsed the nuclear jurisdiction suggestions, they were encompassed into H.Res. 5, the resolution adopting the rules of the House for the 95th Congress. As a result of this rules change, the legislative jurisdiction of the Atomic Energy Committee was divided among the House Armed Services, Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Interior and Insular Affairs, and Science and Technology Committees.

Under this rules change, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs acquired the authority of the Atomic Energy Committee over the "regulation of the domestic nuclear energy industry". To clarify the intent of the House in agreeing to these rules changes, a "Memorandum of Understanding" was drafted by senior members of the affected committees amplifying their views concerning the referral of legislation under the revised committee jurisdictions. With regard to the Interior Committee and nuclear regulation, the memorandum identified potential areas of jurisdiction overlap.

Under the Rule change . . . the jurisdiction of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy over various matters concerning the domestic nuclear power industry is primarily vested in the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; these matters include regulation of research reactors and reactors used

in production of energy for commercial purposes; regulation of the commercial production and reprocessing of nuclear fuels; regulation of nuclear waste management at the site of federally-licensed facilities; regulation of transportation of nuclear fuels and wastes; nuclear regulatory research.

The committees recognize that their jurisdictions with respect to nuclear power may overlap to some extent and in these cases joint or sequential referrals may be appropriate. For example on areas in which joint or sequential referral would appropriate would be regulation of management and disposal of nuclear wastes.

The intention of the proponents of the Bingham amendment, as modified, is to give the Interior Committee primary jurisdiction with respect to legislation that deals principally with nuclear licensing and with safety regulation of nuclear facilities. However, as noted above, the Commerce Committee will have concurrent jurisdiction over many of these measures, and could request a sequential referral of these measures, including amendments to the Price-Anderson Act and authorizations of appropriations for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (18)

7. COMMITTEE REFORM, 96th CONGRESS

The failure of the House to agree to the comprehensive committee reorganization endorsed by the Bolling Committee in 1974 led the House in 1979 to form a second Committee on Committees, this time chaired by Rep. Jerry M. Patterson (D., Cal.). A second OPEC oil-embargo and accompanying petroleum product price rise focused the attention of this second committee on energy jurisdiction change.

The Patterson Committee recommended establishing a new separate Energy Committee which would have jurisdiction over most energy issues. Concurrently, the Patterson committee proposed enhancing the environmental jurisdiction of the Interior Committee by retaining its nuclear regulatory jurisdiction and granting it additional jurisdiction over the environmental aspects of national energy policy.

As before, these proposals met with substantial opposition and, as before, the House agreed to a substantially modified alternative. Rep. Jonathan Bingham, building on his prior role coordinating nuclear energy jurisdiction change, took the lead in crafting the substitute energy jurisdiction realignment which ultimately passed the House in March 1980.

The Bingham Substitute enlarged the coordinating role of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee (renamed Committee on Energy and Commerce), granted it jurisdiction over "national energy policy generally" and various other issues with regard to commercial energy uses and to the conservation of power. The Bingham Substitute deleted the Patterson Committee's proposal to enhance the environmental jurisdiction of the Interior Committee, and as in 1977, a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the interpretation of the affected committees' jurisdictions was entered into

the Congressional Record to guide subsequent bill referrals. With regard to the Interior Committee, the historic role of the committee was reasserted.

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is to remain the Committee of primary jurisdiction over regulation of commercial nuclear power, nuclear regulatory research, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and its authorization bill. The memorandum of understanding relating to separation and allocation of jurisdiction over nuclear issues is to remain in effect as a guide for the referral of legislation. (19)

Since the passage of H.Res. 549, as amended by the Bingham substitute, the formal jurisdiction of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee has remain unchanged. The legislative and oversight jurisdiction of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee during the 101st Congress was specified in House Rule X.

"Rule X(1)(1) Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

- (1) Forest reserves and national parks created from public domain.
- (2) Forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including alien ownership of mineral lands.
- (3) Geological Survey.
- (4) Interstate compacts relating to apportionment of waters for irrigation purposes.
- (5) Irrigation and reclamation, including water supply for reclamation projects, and easements of public lands for irrigation projects, and acquisition of private lands when necessary to complete irrigation projects.
- (6) Measures relating to the care, and management of Indians, including the care and allotment of Indian lands and general and special measures relating to claims which are paid out of Indian funds.
- (7) Measures relating generally to the insular possessions of the United States, except those affecting the revenues and appropriations.
- (8) Military parks and battlefields, and national cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, and Parks within the District of Columbia.
- (9) Mineral land laws and claims and entries thereunder.
- (10) Mineral resources of the public lands.
- (11) Mining interest generally.
- (12) Mining schools and experimental stations.
- (13) Petroleum conservation on the public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States.
- (14) Preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain.
- (15) Public lands generally, including entry, easements, and grazing thereon.
- (16) Relations of the United States with the Indians and the Indian tribes.
- (17) Regulation of the domestic nuclear energy industry, including regulation of research and development reactors and nuclear regulatory research.

i.In addition to its legislative jurisdiction under the preceding provisions of this paragraph and its general oversight function . . ., the committee shall have the special oversight functions provided for in clause 3(e) with respect to all programs affecting Indians and nonmilitary nuclear energy and research and development including the disposal of nuclear waste."

8. REDESIGNATED AS COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Early in the 103rd Congress, the House voted to change the name of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to the Committee on Natural Resources. As with the name change from the Committee on Public Lands to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs at the beginning of the 82nd Congress, many members felt the old name did not reflect the Committee's current jurisdiction. The committee's legislative jurisdiction remained unchanged and was listed in House Rule X as adopted January 5, 1993. The committee's oversight responsibilities were described as:

"In addition to its legislative jurisdiction under the preceding provisions of this paragraph (and its general oversight function under clause 2(b)1)), the committee shall have the special oversight functions provided for in clause 3(e) with respect to all programs affecting Indians and nonmilitary nuclear energy and research and development including the disposal of nuclear waste."... General Oversight Responsibilities

...2.(b)(1) Each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget) shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of that committee and the organization and operation of the Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities in or for the administration and execution thereof, in order to determine whether such laws and programs thereunder are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether such programs should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated. In addition, each such committee shall review and study any such condition or circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation within the jurisdiction of that committee (whether or not any bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto), and shall on a continuing basis undertake future research and forecasting on matters within the jurisdiction of that committee. Each such committee having more than twenty members shall establish an oversight subcommittee, or require its subcommittees, if any, to conduct oversight in the area of their respective jurisdiction, to assist in carrying out its responsibilities under this subparagraph. The establishment of oversight subcommittees shall in no way limit the responsibility of the subcommittees with legislative jurisdiction from carrying out their oversight responsibilities. ... Special Oversight Responsibilities

...3.(e) The Committee on Natural Resources shall have the function of reviewing and studying, on a continuing basis, all laws, programs and Government activities dealing with Indians and non-military energy and research and development, including disposal of nuclear waste. ... (20)

9. COMMITTEE REFORM 104th CONGRESS Abolition of the Committee on Merchant Marine & Fisheries

The Committee on Resources received a major expansion in jurisdiction in 1995. As a result of the 1994 elections, the House leadership was assumed by Republicans for the first time since the 1950s. A major theme of the Republican election campaign was Congressional Committee reform. This reform included the termination of three House Committees and a reduction by 1/3 of Committee staff.

Therefore, the committee's legislative jurisdiction changed and was listed in House Rule X as adopted January 4, 1995. The committee's oversight responsibilities were described as:

- (1) Committee on Resources.
- (1) Fisheries and wildlife, including research, restoration, refuges, and conservation.
- (2) Forest reserves and national parks created from the public domain.
- (3) Forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including alien ownership of mineral lands.
- (4) Geological Survey.
- (5) International fishing agreements.
- (6) Interstate compacts relating to apportionment of waters for irrigation purposes.
- (7) Irrigation and reclamation, including water supply for reclamation projects, and easements of public lands for irrigation projects, and acquisition of private lands when necessary to complete irrigation projects.
- (8) Measures relating to the care and management of Indians, including the care and allotment of Indian lands and general and special measures relating to claims which are paid out of Indian funds.
- (9) Measures relating generally to the insular possessions of the United States, except those affecting the revenue and appropriations.
- (10) Military parks and battlefields, national cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, parks within the District of Columbia, and the erection of monuments to the memory of individuals.
- (11) Mineral land laws and claims and entries thereunder.
- (12) Mineral resources of the public lands.
- (13) Mining interests generally.
- (14) Mining schools and experimental stations.
- (15) Marine affairs (including coastal zone management), except for measures relating to oil and other pollution of navigable waters.
- (16) Oceanography.
- (17) Petroleum conservation on the public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States.
- (18) Preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain.
- (19) Public lands generally, including entry, easements, and grazing thereon.
- (20) Relations of the United States with the Indians and the Indian tribes.
- (21) Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction under the preceding provisions of this paragraph (and its general oversight function under clause 2(b)(1)), the committee shall have the special oversight functions provided for in clause 3(e) with respect to all programs affecting Indians. (21)

The Committee on Resources assumed most of the jurisdiction of the now abolished Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Some of the Merchant Marine jurisdiction over the Coast Guard and marine safety were transferred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The special Resource Committee jurisdiction over nuclear energy was transferred to the Committee on Commerce (formerly the Committee on Energy & Commerce).

10. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION 105th CONGRESS

The Committee on Resources was renewed for the 105th Congress. Therefore, the committee's legislative jurisdiction changed slightly and was listed in House Rule X as adopted January 7, 1997. The committee's oversight responsibilities were described as:

- (1) Committee on Resources.
- (1) Fisheries and wildlife, including research, restoration, refuges, and conservation.
- (2) Forest reserves and national parks created from the public domain.
- (3) Forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including alien ownership of mineral lands.
- (4) Geological Survey.
- (5) International fishing agreements.
- (6) Interstate compacts relating to apportionment of waters for irrigation purposes.
- (7) Irrigation and reclamation, including water supply for reclamation projects, and easements of public lands for irrigation projects, and acquisition of private lands when necessary to complete irrigation projects.
- (8) Measures relating to the care and management of Indians, including the care and allotment of Indian lands and general and special measures relating to claims which are paid out of Indian funds.
- (9) Measures relating generally to the insular possessions of the United States, except those affecting the revenue and appropriations.
- (10) Military parks and battlefields, national cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, parks within the District of Columbia, and the erection of monuments to the memory of individuals.
- (11) Mineral land laws and claims and entries thereunder.
- (12) Mineral resources of the public lands.
- (13) Mining interests generally.
- (14) Mining schools and experimental stations.
- (15) Marine affairs (including coastal zone management), except for measures relating to oil and other pollution of navigable waters.
- (16) Oceanography.
- (17) Petroleum conservation on the public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States.
- (18) Preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain.
- (19) Public lands generally, including entry, easements, and grazing thereon.
- (20) Relations of the United States with the Indians and the Indian tribes.
- (21) Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline (except ratemaking).
- In addition to its legislative jurisdiction under the preceding provisions of this paragraph (and its general oversight function under clause 2(b)(1)), the committee shall have the special oversight functions provided for in clause 3(e) with respect to all programs affecting Indians.
- (e) The Committee on Resources shall have the function of reviewing and studying, on a continuing basis, all laws, programs, and Government activities dealing with Indians. (22)

The major change in the Committee from the 104th Congress was the realignment of Subcommittee juridictions. The Subcommittee on Native & Insular Affairs was abolished and its jurisdiction assumed by full committee. The jurisdiction of the busiest subcommittee, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests & Public Lands, was divided into two separate subcommittees: the Subcommittee on National Parks & Public Lands and the Subcommittee on Forests & Forest Health. (For more information, see the Committee Rules for the 105th Congress.)

11. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION 106th CONGRESS

The Committee on Resources was renewed for the 106th Congress. Therefore, the committee's legislative jurisdiction is unchanged and is listed in House Rule X as adopted January 6, 1999. The committee's oversight responsibilities were described as:

- (1) Committee on Resources.
- (1) Fisheries and wildlife, including research, restoration, refuges, and conservation.
- (2) Forest reserves and national parks created from the public domain.
- (3) Forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including alien ownership of mineral lands.
- (4) Geological Survey.
- (5) International fishing agreements.
- (6) Interstate compacts relating to apportionment of waters for irrigation purposes.
- (7) Irrigation and reclamation, including water supply for reclamation projects and easements of public lands for irrigation projects; and acquisition of private lands when necessary to complete irrigation projects.
- (8) Native Americans generally, including the care and allotment of Native American lands and general and special measures relating to claims that are paid out of Native American funds.
- (9) Insular possessions of the United States generally (except those affecting the revenue and appropriations).
- (10) Military parks and battlefields, national cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, parks within the District of Columbia, and the erection of monuments to the memory of individuals.
- (11) Mineral land laws and claims and entries thereunder.
- (12) Mineral resources of public lands.
- (13) Mining interests generally.
- (14) Mining schools and experimental stations.
- (15) Marine affairs, including coastal zone management (except for measures relating to oil and other pollution of navigable waters).
- (16) Oceanography.
- (17) Petroleum conservation on public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States
- (18) Preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain.
- (19) Public lands generally, including entry, easements, and grazing thereon.
- (20) Relations of the United States with Native Americans and Native American tribes.
- (21) Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline (except ratemaking).
- (h) The Committee on Resources shall have the function of reviewing and studying, on a continuing basis, all laws, programs, and Government activities dealing with Indians. (23)

The Subcommittee juridictions remain unchanged from the 105th Congress. (For more information, see the Committee Rules for the 106th Congress.)

12.APPENDIX

a. Previous Committee Names & Components

The **Committee on Resources** name was adopted at the beginning of the 104th Congress. Before that the committee was called the <u>Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs</u>, a name chosen in 1951. Before 1951, the committee name was the Committee on Public Lands.

Committee on Public Lands (1805)

- (1)Committee on Private Land Claims (1816)
- (2)Committee on Indian Affairs (1821)
- (3)Committee on Territories (1825)
- (4)Committee on Mines and Mining (1865)
- (5)Committee on Irrigation and Arid Lands (1883)
- (6)Committee on Insular Affairs (1899)
- (7)Committee Irrigation and Reclamation (1924) new name previously the Committee on Irrigation and Arid Lands

(8)Committee on Public Lands (1946) - this Committee absorbed all the committees listed above under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946.

Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs (1951) - new name - previously the Committee on Public Lands

Committee on Natural Resources (1993) - new name - previously the Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs

Committee on Resources (1995) - new name - previously the Committee on Natural Resources; the Committee also absorbed most of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries (1995) which was abolished by the 104th Congress.

b. Prominent Committee Members

(A brief biographical summary of every past Speaker of the House and many Members is available from the Clerk of the House at: http://clerkweb.house.gov/history.htm).

Among those who have served on the Committee on Resources or its predecessors were:

i. Eighteen Speakers of the House;

ii.Four Presidents of the United States:

iii.Seven Vice Presidents of the United States:

iv. Two Justices of the Supreme Court; and

v.Seven Cabinet Secretaries.

c. Former Speakers of the U.S. House of Representatives

Name; (Party, State); Birthplace; (Lifespan); Congress as Speaker

i. Bankhead, William B.; (D., AL); Moscow, Alabama; (April 12, 1874 -

September 15, 1940); 74th-76th Congresses.

ii. Banks, Nathaniel P.; (R., MA); Waltham, Massachusetts; (January 30, 1816 -

September 1, 1894); 34th Congress.

iii. Bell, John; (Whig, TN); Nashville, Tennessee; (February 15, 1797 - September 10, 1869); 23rd Congress.

iv. Boyd, Linn, (D., KY); Nashville, Tennessee; (November 22, 1800 - December 17, 1859); 32nd-33rd Congresses.

v.**Byrns**, Joseph W.; (D., TN); Cedar Hill, Tennessee; (July 20, 1869 - June 4, 1936); 74th Congress - 1st Session.

vi. Cannon, Joseph G.; (R., IL); Guilford, North Carolina; (May 7, 1836 -

November 12, 1926); 58th-61st Congresses.

vii. Cobb, Howell; (D., GA); Jefferson County, Georgia; (September 7, 1815 -

October 9, 1868); 31st Congress.

viii. Colfax, Schuyler; (RP, IN); New York City, New York; (March 23, 1823 -

January 13, 1855); 38th-40th Congress.

ix. Davis, John W.; (D., IN); New Holland, Pennsylvania; (August 16, 1799 -

August 22, 1859); 29th Congress.

x. Foley, Thomas L.; (D., WA); Spokane, Washington; (March 6, 1929 -);

101st-104th Congresses.

xi. Grow, Galusha A.; (D/R., PA); Ashford/Eastford, Connecticut; (August 3, 1833 - March 31, 1907); 37th Congress.

xii. Hunter, Robert M.; (D., VA); Loretto, Virginia; (April 21, 1809 - June 18, 1887); 26th Congress.

xiii. Kerr, Michael C.; (D., IN); Titusville, Pennsylvania; (March 15, 1827 - August 19, 1876); 44th Congress.

xiv. McCormack, John W.; (D., MA); Boston, Massachusetts; (December 21, 1891 - November 22, 1980); 87th-91st Congresses.

xv. Orr, James L.; (D., SC); Craytonville, South Carolina; (May 12, 1822 - May 5, 1873); 35th Congress.

xvi. Rainey, Henry T.; (D., IL); Carrollton, Illinois; (August 20, 1860 - August 19, 1934); 73rd Congress.

xvii. Reed, Thomas B.; (R., ME); Portland, Maine; (October 18, 1839 - December 7, 1902); 51st/54th-55th Congresses.

xviii. White, John; (Whig, KY); Cumberland Gap (Middlesboro), Kentucky; (February 14, 1802 - September 22, 1845); 27th Congress.

A complete list of all past <u>Speakers of the House</u> is provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

d. Presidents of the United States

i. Adams, John Quincy; (Whig, MA); Braintree, Massachusetts; (July 11, 1767 - February 23, 1848); President - 1825-1829.

ii. <u>Harrison</u>, William Henry; (D., OH); Charles County, Virginia; (February 9, 1773 - April 4, 1841); President - 1841.

iii. <u>Hayes</u>, Rutherford B.; (R., OH); Delaware, Ohio; (October 4, 1822 - January 17, 1893); President - 1877-1881.

iv. Johnson, Andrew; (D., TN); Raleigh, North Carolina; (December 29, 1808 - July 31, 1875); President - 1865-1869.

e. Vice Presidents of the United States

i. Colfax, Schuyler; (R., IN); New York City, New York; (March 23, 1823 - January 13, 1855); Vice President - 1868-1873.

ii. Curtis, Charles; (R., KA); Topeka, Kansas; (January 25, 1860 - February 8, 1936); Vice President - 1929-1933.

iii. <u>Johnson</u>, Andrew; (D., TN); Raleigh, North Carolina; (December 29, 1808 - July 31, 1875); Vice President - 1865.

iv. King, William R.; (D., NC); (April 7, 1786 - April 18, 1853); Vice President - 1853.

v. Sherman, James S.; (R., NY); Utica, New York; (October 24, 1855 - October 30, 1912); Vice President - 1909-1912.

vi. Stevenson, Adlai E.; (D., IL); Christian County, Kentucky; (October 23, 1835 - June 14, 1914); Vice President - 1893-1897.

vii. Wheeler, William A.; (R., NY); (June 30, 1819 - June 4, 1887); Vice President - 1877-1881.

f. Supreme Court Justices

i. Byrnes, James F.; (D., SC); Charleston, South Carolina; (May 2, 1879 - April 9, 1972); Associate Justice - 1941-1942.

ii. Vinson, Frederick M.; (D., KY); Louisa, Kentucky; (January 22, 1890 - September 8, 1953); Chief Justice - 1946-1953.

g. Cabinet Secretaries

i. Byrnes, James F.; (D., SC); Charleston, South Carolina; (May 2, 1879 - April 9, 1972); Secretary of State - 1945-1947; (President Harry S Truman).

ii. Cheney, Richard B.; (R., WY); Lincoln, Nebraska; (January 30, 1941 -); Secretary of Defense - 1989-1993; (President George H.W. Bush).

iii. Cobb, Howell; (D., GA); Jefferson County, Georgia; (September 7, 1815 -

October 9, 1868); Secretary of the Treasury - March 6, 1857, to December 10, 1860; (President James Buchanan). Chairman of the convention of delegates from the seceded States which assembled in Montgomery, Ala., on February 24, 1861, to form a Confederate Government; Major General, Army of the Confederate States of America.

iv. Herter, Christian A.; (R., MA); Paris, France; (March 28, 1895 - December 30, 1966); Secretary of State - April 22, 1959, to January 20, 1961; (President Dwight D. Eisenhower). v. Lujan, Manuel, Jr.; (R., NM); San Idlefonso, New Mexico; (May 12, 1928 -); Secretary of the Interior - 1989-1993; (President George H.W. Bush).

vi. Morton, Rogers C.B.; (R., MD); Louisville, Kentucky; (September 9, 1914 - April 19, 1979); Secretary of the Interior - 1971-1975; (Presidents Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford). vii. Udall, Stewart L.; (D., AZ); St. Johns, Arizona; (January 31, 1920 -); Secretary of the Interior - 1961-1969; (Presidents John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson).

h. Other Prominent Committee Members

i. <u>Douglas</u>, Stephen A.; (D., IL); Brandon, Vermont; (April 23, 1813 - June 3, 1861); Opposed Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency in 1860 "Lincoln-Douglas Debates".

ii. Greeley, Horace; (Whig, NY); Amherst, New Hampshire; (February 3, 1811 - November 29, 1872); Newspaper Publisher who said "Go West, young man".

iii. Hearst, William Randolph; (D., NY); San Francisco, California; (April 29, 1863 - August 14, 1951); Newspaper Publisher who backed the Spanish-American War.

iv. La Follette, Robert M.; (R., WI); Primrose, Wisconsin; (June 14, 1855 - June 18, 1925); Progressive Senator from Wisconsin. Honored with a <u>statue</u> in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol. (24)

v.<u>La Guardia</u>, Fiorello H.; (R., NY); New York City, New York; (December 11, 1882 - September 20, 1947); Mayor of New York City.

vi. Powell, Adam Clayton, Jr.; (D., NY); New Haven, Connecticut; (November 29, 1908 - April 4, 1972); Convicted of income tax evasion, but re-elected.

vii. Rankin, Jeannette; (R., MT); Missoula, Montana; (June 11, 1880 - May 18, 1973); First woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives/Congress; Elected to the 65th Congress -- March 4, 1917-March 3, 1919 -- and assumed office prior to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution ("The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.") which was completed on August 18, 1920. Honored with a statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol. (24)

viii. Simpson, Jerry; (Populist, KS); Prince Edward Island, Canada; (March 31, 1842 - October 23, 1905); Populist.

ix. Stephens, Alexander H.; (D., GA); Crawfordville, Georgia; (February 11, 1812 - March 4, 1883); Vice President of the Confederate States of America - 1861-1865. x. Volstead, Andrew; (R., MN); Kenyon, Minnesota; (October 31, 1860 - January 20, 1947); Sponsor of the Volstead Act (Prohibition) - the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

i. Chairmen Since 1946

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i. Aspinall (25), Wayne; (D., CO); 86th-91st Congresses.
ii. Engle, Clair; (D., CA); 84th-85th Congresses.
iii. Haley (25), James A.; (D. FL); 93rd-94th Congresses.
iv. Miller, A.L.; (R., NE); 83rd Congress.
v. Miller, George; (D., CA); 102nd-103rd Congresses (May 9, 1991-January 3, 1995).

vi. Murdock, John R.; (D., AZ); 82nd Congress.
vii. Peterson, J. Hardin; (D., FL); 81st Congress.
vii. Somers, Andrew L.; (D., NY); 81st Congress (Jan. 1, 1949-April 4, 1949).
ix. Udall (25), Morris K.; (D., AZ); St. Johns, Arizona; 95th-102nd Congresses (Jan., 1977-May 3, 1991).
x. Welch, Richard; (R., CA); 80th Congress.
xi. Young (25), Donald E.; (R., AK); 104th - Congresses (January 3, 1995-Present).
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ENDNOTES

- 1. Annals of Congress, First Session, Ninth Congress, pp. 285-286.
- 2. House Journal, Fourteen Congress, First Session, p. 753.
- 3. Annals of Congress, Seventeenth Congress, 1st Session, p. 553.
- 4. House Journal, Nineteenth Congress, 1st Congress, p. 46.
- 5. Congressional Globe, Thirty-Ninth Congress, 1st Session, December 19, 1865 p. 83.
- 6. Congressional Record, 53rd Congress, 1st Session, August 18, 1883, pp. 447-448.
- 7. Congressional Record, 56th Congress, 1st Session, December 5, 1899, p. 60, and December 8, 1899, p. 159. The proposal was introduced by Rep. James A. Tawney, the Chairman of the House Republican Caucus, and was reported from the Rules Committee by Rep. John Dalzell of Pennsylvania.
- 8. Hinds' and Cannon's Precedents, v. VII, sec. 2031.
- <u>9</u>. Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives, 100th Congress, H.Document, 99-279, sec. 726.
- 10. Hinds' and Cannon's Precedents, v. Vii, sec. 1741.
- 11. Congressional Record, v. 92, 82nd Congress, 1st Session, February 2, 1951, pp. 883-884. The subject jurisdictions of the two committees were nearly identical at the time. Only one area separated the two. The House Interior Committee had authority over measures providing for "the acquisition of private lands when necessary to complete irrigation projects." The Senate Interior Committee had no such formal jurisdiction, and no other Senate committee had such language within its legislative jurisdiction.
- 12. House Resolution 241, 90th Congress, October 20, 1967. For additional information on House floor debate and the re-referral of affected bills and resolutions, consult Deschler's Precedents, ch. 17, sec. 40-16.
- 13. Until the passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, territorial delegates were limited to service on the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Subsequent changes in party rules enabled the delegates to serve on any standing committee on an equal basis with voting Members of the House.
- 14. U.S. Congress. House. Select Committee on Committees. Committee Reform Amendments of 1974. 93rd Congress, 2nd Session. House Report 93-916, pt. II. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1974, pp. 36-37.
- <u>15</u>. The work of the Bolling Committee and the reorganization of the House committees ultimately achieved through the modified Hansen plan is comprehensively reviewed in Davidson, Roger and Walter Oleszek. Congress Again Itself. Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1977.
- 16. The rationale for these special oversight grants is described in House Report 93-916, Pt. II, cited above, page 70.
- <u>17</u>. The conflict surrounding the reorganization of House committees is described in detail in Davidson, Roger and Walter Oleszek. Congress Again Itself. Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1977.

- 18. Memorandum of Understanding with Respect to Bingham Amendment, Congressional Record, vol. 123, January 3, 1977, p. 64. The terms of the memorandum guided the Speaker in referring a bill prescribing procedures for the meetings of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission jointly to the Interior and Energy and Commerce (formerly the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee) Committees; see Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1987 Supplement, ch. 17, sec. 27, 29.
- <u>19</u>. Statement of Understanding Concerning Certain Subparagraphs of the Bingham Substitute to H.Res. 549. Congressional Record, v. 126, March 25, 1980, p. 6408.
- 20. Rules of the House of Representatives, 103rd Congress. House Rule X. pp. 6-7.
- 21. Rules of the House of Representatives, 104th Congress. House Rule X. pp. 6-7.
- 22. Rules of the House of Representatives, 105th Congress. House Rule X. pp. 6-7.
- 23. Rules of the House of Representatives, 106th Congress. House Rule X. pp. 6-7.
- <u>24</u>. For a complete list of statues in Statuary Hall, See <u>Art in the U.S. Capitol The National Statuary Hall Collection Sorted by Names (http://www.aoc.gov/art/nshnames.htm)</u>
- <u>25</u>. Portraits on display in the Committee Hearing Rooms
 - Morris K. Udall Hearing Room, 1324 Longworth House Office Building. Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs / Committee on Resources.
 - Wayne N. Aspinall (D-CO) Chairman, 86th-91st Congresses. (January 7, 1959-January 2, 1971). Portrait by Charles J. Fox.
 - James A. Haley (D-FL) Chairman, 93rd-94th Congresses. (January 3, 1973-October 1, 1976). Portrait by Thornton Utz. 1976.
 - Morris K. Udall (D-AZ) Chairman, 95th-102nd Congresses (January 4, 1977-May 3, 1991). Portrait by Everett Raymond Kinstler, 1985.
 - Don Young (R-AK) Chairman, 104th- Congresses (January 3, 1995-Present). Portrait by Charlen Jeffrey Satron, 1996.

Walter B. Jones, Sr. Hearing Room, 1334 Longworth House Office Building formerly the Committee on Merchant Marine & Fisheries:

- Schuyler O. Bland (D-VA) Chairman, 73rd-79th, 81st Congresses (March 9, 1933-August 2, 1946, January 3, 1949-February 16, 1950). Portrait by Sandor C. Klein.
- Herbert C. Bonner (D-NC) Chairman, 84th-89th Congresses (January 3, 1955-November 7, 1965). Portrait by Mabel Pugh.
- Edward A. Garmatz (D-MD) Chairman, 89th-92nd Congresses (November, 1965-January 2, 1971). Portrait by Charles J. Fox.
- Leonor Kretzer Sullivan (D-MO) Chairman, 93rd-94th Congresses (January 3, 1971- January 2, 1977). Portrait by Charles J. Fox.
- Walter B. Jones, Sr. (D-NC) Chairman, 97th-102nd Congresses (January 3, 1981-January 2, 1993)

See Also <u>Eastman Paintings</u> on Display in the *Morris K. Udall Hearing Room* (1324 Longworth House Office Building) at the Committee on Resources.

- END -